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they are not so familiar.' So it always proved to be. This eighteen-penny white wine was produced at the famous Whistler breakfasts, where it was pronounced to be perfect. 'A very sound wine, very sound indeed,' I have heard men say as they held it up to the light, handling it carefully as though it were priceless — in exactly the same way I have seen them caress a blue-and-white plate. I have heard intelligent men dilate for hours upon the beauty and rarity of certain porcelain which I myself have seen Whistler buy at a cheap shop round the corner, or which has been presented at our doors in company with a pound of oriental tea."

Overton and Hill's Nature Study. By FRANK OVERTON, A.M., M.D., assisted by MARY E. HILL, Instructor in Science and Nature Study in the Good-year Burlingame School, Syracuse, N. Y. New York: American Book Co. Cloth, 12mo, illustrated, pp. 142. \$0.40.

This book furnishes a year's work for pupils from eight to eleven years old. The subjects for study are those most familiar to children, such as the fly, the tadpole, frost, the pine tree, golden rod, the bird's nest, etc. The lessons are arranged in the order of the seasons, and throw light on the unfamiliar sides of these familiar things. They are correlated with work in drawing and composition-writing, and teach the pupil not only to observe closely, but to realize the meaning of what he has observed, and to describe it both pictorially and verbally. The book is profusely illustrated, largely from photographs taken by the author. The plan is simple and the method supplies interesting work for young pupils, and affords a good basis for further and more advanced study.

Spencers' Practical Writing. By PLATT R. SPENCER'S SONS. New York: American Book Co. Six Books, per dozen, \$0.60.

This new system of writing has been devised because of the distinct and wide-spread reaction from the use of vertical writing in the schools. It is thoroughly up-to-date, embodying all the advantages of the old and of the new. Each word can be written by one continuous movement of the pen. The books teach a plain, practical hand, moderate in slant and free from ornamental curves, shade, and meaningless lines. The stem letters are long enough to be clear and unmistakable. In each of the six numbers composing the series there are twenty-four copies. The copies begin with words and gradually develop into sentences. The letters, both large and small, are taught systematically. Books One and Two contain many illustrations in outline. Each succeeding book presents more work and in greater variety. The ruling of the books is very simple and will in no way unduly confine or hamper the movement of the pen. Instruction is afforded showing how the pupil should sit at the desk and hold the pen and paper. A series of drill movement exercises, thirty-three in number, with directions for their use, accompanies each book. This series should prove most successful, both from the ability and reputation of its authors, and from the fact that teachers are now ready to welcome a system of writing which is at the same time legible, graceful, and easy to learn.